

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8 (canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 8, further comprising:~~

A micromechanical switch, comprising:

a movable mass;

a first spring element connected to the movable mass;

at least one contact element; and

a second spring element, wherein the at least one contact element is movable and connected to the second spring element;

wherein the first spring element is displaced when there is a specified movement of the movable mass, the movable mass and the at least one contact element being separated from one another up to a specified degree of displacement of the first spring element, and wherein the movable mass contacts the at least one contact element starting at the specified degree of displacement of the first spring element, and wherein a common movement of the movable mass and the at least one contact element is provided when the displacement of the first spring element is greater than the specified degree of displacement.

10. (Currently Amended) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim [[8]] 9, wherein the first spring element includes an U-spring element.

11. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 9, wherein at least one of the first spring element and the second spring element includes an U-spring element.

12. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 9, wherein the spring constant of the second spring element is substantially lower than the spring constant of the first spring element.

13. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 11, wherein the spring constant of the second spring element is substantially lower than the spring constant of the first spring element.

14. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

a third spring element providing a stabilizing effect on the movement of the movable mass.

15. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 11, further comprising:

a third spring element providing a stabilizing effect on the movement of the movable mass.

16. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 12, further comprising:

a third spring element providing a stabilizing effect on the movement of the movable mass.

17. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 14, wherein the spring constant of the third spring element is substantially lower than the spring constant of the first spring element.

18. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 15, wherein the spring constant of the third spring element is substantially lower than the spring constant of the first spring element.

19. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 16, wherein the spring constant of the third spring element is substantially lower than the spring constant of the first spring element.

20. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

a stop, wherein the stop prevents displacement of the first spring element beyond a specified maximum degree of displacement of the first spring element.

21. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 9, further comprising:

a stop, wherein the stop prevents displacement of the first spring element beyond a specified maximum degree of displacement of the first spring element.

22. (Previously Presented) The micromechanical switch as recited in claim 14, further comprising:

a stop, wherein the stop prevents displacement of the first spring element beyond a specified maximum degree of displacement of the first spring element.